

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 20-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 are amended for form and claims 24 and 25 are added. No new matter is introduced. The amendments to claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 are in addition to the amendments provided in Applicants' Amendment filed on October 27, 2008. The Remarks below supplement the Remarks set forth in Applicants' October 27 Amendment, and repeat those arguments only to the extent necessary for context. Applicants submit this Supplemental Amendment in view of the discussion undertaken during the personal interview discussed below. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, as a supplement to Applicants' October 27 Amendment, reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Lett at the interview held November 7, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Specifically, the Examiner indicated that a Supplemental Amendment would be considered if filed at least before December 1, 2008. Because this Supplemental Amendment is so filed, entry and consideration of this Supplemental Amendment are respectfully requested.

During the November 7 personal interview with Examiner Lett, Applicants' representative presented arguments traversing the prior art rejections of the Office Action based substantially on the Remarks presented in Applicants' October 27 Amendment. Applicants' representative noted that the claims were amended to clarify features which could not reasonably be considered to be taught, or to have been suggested by U.S. Patent No.

5,727,135 to Webb, even in view of one or more of U.S. Patent No. 6,924,826 to Nakagiri, U.S. Patent No. 6,804,108 to Mochizuki, or U.S. Patent No. 6,615,297 to Beard.

Examiner Lett expressed certain concern regarding the clarifying amendments made in the October 27 Amendment. The above amendments are presented to clarify the subject matter recited in the pending claims in view of the Examiner's concern regarding the clarity of those claims as written. As indicated above, Examiner Lett agreed to enter and consider a Supplemental Amendment, if timely filed.

For at least the reason that the claims are clarified to teach setting information specifying a setting to be applied to the first process, a feature which, in addition to those argued in Applicants' October 27 Amendment, Webb does not teach, even in combination with the other applied references, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested the combinations of all the features positively recited in independent claims 1, 6, 13 and 14. Further, claims 2-5, 7-12, 15-18 and 20-23 also are neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by Webb, alone, or even in combination with the other applied references, for at least their respective dependencies, directly or indirectly, on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied references is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 would not have been rendered obvious by Webb, Nakagiri, Mochizuki, and Beard. Claims 2-5, 7-12, 15-18 and 20-23 variously depend from claims 1 and 6 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Webb, Nakagiri, Mochizuki, and Beard. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Added claim 24 depends from claim 1 and is, therefore, distinguished over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Added claim 25 is directed to an "image processing apparatus" having features similar to those discussed above regarding claim 1. Thus, new claim 25 is patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1. Prompt examination and allowance of added claims 24 and 25 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 and 20-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Amendment Transmittal

Date: December 1, 2008

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